

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 GAC-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-09 H-02

INR-09 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-14

USIA-12 RSR-01 /092 W

----- 003626

R 231535 Z MAR 73

FM AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 957

INFO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

USMISSION NATO

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E. O. 11652: N/ A

TAGS: PGOV, NL

SUBJECT: NEW DUTCH GOVERNMENT: CHU DECLINES INVITATION IT
SOLICITED

REF: THE HAGUE 1332

1. SUMMARY: AFTER DAY- LONG MEETING OF HIS PARLIAMENTARY GROUP, CHU LEADER TILANUS ANNOUNCED EVENING MARCH 22 HE SAW NO SENSE IN CONFERRING WITH FORMATEUR MARCH 23. MEETING OF BURGER WITH CHU, KVP AND ARP FLOOR LEADERS HAD BEEN SET UP AS RESULT SUCCESSFUL ANDRIESSEN- DEN UYL CONVERSATION OF MARCH 21. ANDRIESSEN AND AANTJES, WHO TERMED CHU' S DECISION DISAPPOINTING, REQUESTED POSTPONEMENT OF THIS MORNING' S (MARCH 23) SESSION WITH FORMATEUR TO PERMIT CONSULTATIONS WITH THEIR PARLIAMENTARY GROUPS. OPTIMISM AND SENSE OF BREAKTHROUGH WHICH PREVAILED AFTER ANDRIESSEN- DEN UYL TALKS HAS CONSIDERABLY DISSIPATED. END SUMMARY.

2. AFTER DAY- LONG SESSION OF HIS PARLIAMENTARY GROUP (WITH CHU MINISTERS UDINK AND VAN VEEN ALSO PARTICIPATING), FLOOR LEADER TILANUS ANNOUNCED CHU WOULD NOT PARTICIPATE IN SESSION FORMATEUR HAD SCHEDULED FOR THIS MORNING (MARCH 23) WITH
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THREE CONFESSIONAL FLOOR LEADERS. KEY SENTENCE IN LETTER TILANUS DISPATCHED TO BURGER LAST NIGHT IS: " I CANNOT PROMISE THE SUPPORT OF MY PARLIAMENTARY GROUP FOR A CABINET DEN UYL ON THE BASIS WHICH YOU HAVE IN MIND". THUS TILANUS SAW NO REASON TO PARTICIPATE IN FURTHER MEETINGS WITH FORMATEUR. IN PRESS CONFERENCE CHU LEADER ADMITTED HIS PARTY ' S STANDPOINT MADE CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATIC COOPERATION ON NATIONAL LEVEL DIFFICULT BUT HOPED IT WOULD CONTINUE ON PROVINCIAL AND LOCAL LEVELS.

3. TILANUS' CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATIC COLLABORATORS AANTJES AND ANDRIESSEN, WHO FOUND CHU DECISION REGRETTABLE, IMMEDIATELY ASKED BURGER TO POSTPONE NEXT MORNING' S MEETING TO ENABLE THEM TO CONSULT WITH THEIR PARLIAMENTARY GROUPS. THERE WAS SOME DELAY IN GETTING THEIR REQUEST TO THE FORMATEUR SINCE HIS PHONE WAS DISCONNECTED. EVENTUALLY A POLICE COURIER WAS EMPLOYED.

4. LATEST CONTRETEMPS IN CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATIC CAMP CAME DAY AFTER SUCCESSFUL FOUR- HOUR SESSION BETWEEN ANDRIESSEN AND DEN UYL (WITH BURGER MODERATING) AFTERNOON OF MARCH 21. BOTH PARTICIPANTS EXPRESSED SATISFACTION WITH MEETING. DEN UYL SAID PRINCIPAL BUSINESS HAD BEEN CLARIFYING VARIOUS POINTS IN LEFT WING' S PLATFORM. HE STRESSED THERE HAD BEEN NO NEGOTIATIONS. CANDIDATE PREMIER SAID THEIR TALK HAD BROKEN THROUGH FORMATION IMPASSE. THERE WAS NOW " REALISTIC POSSIBILITY" OF " PROGRESSIVE GOVERNMENT". KVP LEADER ANDRIESSEN WHO TERMED SESSION WITH DEN UYL " LIVELY" EXPRESSED SATISFACTION THAT BOTH BURGER AND DEN UYL HAD AGREED THAT CHU SHOULD BE INVOLVED IN FORMATION. HE NOTED THERE WERE STILL CONSIDERABLE DIFFERENCES OF OPINION ON VARIOUS POINTS IN PROGRAM. ANDRIESSEN SEEMED LESS ENTHUSIASTIC THAN DEN UYL ABOUT LEAVING SUCH PROBLEMS TO DECISION OF CHAMBER. PORTFOLIO DISTRIBUTION WAS NOT DISCUSSED WEDNESDAY. IN REMARKS TO PRESS DEN UYL STOOD FIRM ON 10 LEFT WING 6 CONFESSIONAL DISTRIBUTION BUT ADDED HE HAD NO OBJECTION TO KVP GIVING ONE OF ITS PORTFOLIOS TO CHU.

5. COMMENT: DECISION OF CHU WHICH SEEMS TO HAVE SURPRISED KVP AND ARP, HAS INCREASED TENSIONS IN ALREADY DIVIDED CONFESSIONAL CAMP. IT REINFORCES VIEW OF LEFT-WING CONFESSIONALS WHO FELT ILLUSORY CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATIC UNITY SHOULD NOT STAND IN WAY OF NEW GOVT. CHU' S DECISION ALSO STRENGTHENS HAND OF CONFESSIONAL RIGHT WING WHICH

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CONTENDS TOO MANY CONCESSIONS ALREADY MADE TO LEFT WING THREE
AND EXCLUSION OF CHU AND DISRUPTION OF CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATIC
COOPERATION IS WHAT LEFT HAS BEEN AFTER ALL ALONG.
REPORTEDLY 14- MAN ARP SECOND CHAMBER GROUP IS ALMOST EVENLY
DIVIDED
BETWEEN THOSE FAVORING MOVING AHEAD WITHOUT CHU AND THOSE
WHO FEEL CHU MUST PARTICIPATE IN NEW GOVT.
A GLUM KVP DEPUTY FLOOR LEADER WESTERTERP TOLD DCM
MARCH 23, HE WAS FEARFUL THERE MIGHT BE SPLIT IN KVP
PARLIAMENTARY GROUP ON CHU ISSUE. THUS, OPTIMISM AND
SENSE OF BREAKTHROUGH AFTER ANDRIESEN- DEN UYL SESSION
OF MAGKH 21 HAS CONSIDERABLY DISSIPATED.

6. WITH FORMATION NOW IN ITS 114 TH DAY, PRESSURE POLI-
TICIANS FEEL TO PUT SOMETHING TOGETHER IS GROWING.
CONSIDERING ALTERNATIVES SHOULD BURGER FAIL AT THIS LATE STAGE,
SEEMS TANTAMOUNT TO THINKING ABOUT UNTHINKABLE BUT IT IS
BEING DONE. SOME OF MORE PLAUSIBLE OPTIONS ARE A) NEW
ELECTIONS LATE THIS YEAR WITH BIESHEUVEL GOVT STAYING IN
PLACE. THIS IS ULTIMATE FALL- BACK AND IS ESPECIALLY
UNPALATABLE TO CONFESSIONALS, B) GIVING CONFESSIONAL OR
(AS FORMER PRIMIN DE JONG SUGGESTED) EVEN LIBERAL FORMATEUR
A CHANCE TO GLUE TOGETHER OLD FOUR OR FIVE- PARTY GOVT. CONSIDERING
LIBERALS' RELATIONS WITH KVP AND ARP AFTER NEARLY FOUR
MONTH FORMATION, THIS COULD BE AS COMPLICATED AND MIGHT
REQUIRE AS MUCH TIME AS RUPPERT- BURGER EFFORT. C) LEFT
WING MINORITY GOVT WITHOUT " WHITE BAND". CONFESSIONALS WOULD
AGREE NOT TO SEND DEN UYL HOME HIS FIRST DAY IN OFFICE.
THEY WOULD RELY, HOWEVER, ON HIS KNOWLEDGE THAT THEY COULD
ALWAYS PRESS DESTRUCT SWITCH TO KEEP HIM FROM TAKING TOO
RADICAL A LINE.
MIDDENDORF

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*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 23 MAR 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: boyleja
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973THEHA01380
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: n/a
Errors: n/a
Film Number: n/a
From: THE HAGUE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19730337/aaaaignz.tel
Line Count: 152
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 73 THE HAGUE 1332
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: boyleja
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 02 AUG 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <02-Aug-2001 by boyleja>; APPROVED <14-Sep-2001 by boyleja>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: <DBA CORRECTED> srp 971224
Subject: NEW DUTCH GOVERNMENT: CHU DECLINES INVITATION IT SOLICITED
TAGS: PGOV, NL
To: EUR
SECSTATE WASHDC INFO BRUSSELS
EC BRUSSELS
USNATO
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005